



## MARCH - APRIL EDITION 2019

### Out on a Limb with your President

Welcome to the first meeting of 2019, which will be on Wednesday, March 6, at 6:30pm at the new Town offices. Don't forget, dues for 2019 are due. They are \$15 per person or \$25 per family.

Little Robin redbreast  
Sitting on a rail  
Niddle, noddle goes his head  
Wiggle waggle goes his tail

With Spring around the corner, in my yard I have two Robins and four or five Western Bluebirds. Both are a welcome sign of Spring. Both American Robins and Western Bluebirds are members of the Thrush family. Both eat approximately the same diet of insects and fruits but their foraging habits differ. The Robin likes to forage on the ground, kicking up leaves, with the classic tilted head, listening for a tasty meal. Western Bluebirds, on the other hand, like to sit on a fence or rail or tree limb to look for their food. Both tend to migrate a short distance during really cold weather, but they tend to return to the same breeding grounds. As with both birds, migration patterns tend to be for food access and nesting purposes. American Robins have open nests usually in trees. Western Bluebirds tend to be cavity nesters. The return of these birds signals the return also of our summer birds, so watch your feeders and when they come - enjoy the sight!

As always...enjoy birds!

Mary Ellen

### CALENDAR

#### 2019 Monthly Meetings & Monthly Field Trips:

All WMAS monthly programs are held on the first Wednesday of the month (except in January and February). They begin at 6:30 pm. The location for the programs will be the PinetopLakeside Town Council Chambers, 325 W. White Mountain Blvd., Pinetop-Lakeside. Please refer to the Audubon website for changes in meeting locations. ([www.whitemountainaudubon.org](http://www.whitemountainaudubon.org)). Monthly Field trips are listed on this schedule. Field trips start at 7 am. For directions to meet-up locations please see separate Field trip schedule available at WMAS General Meetings and the Nature Center or visit the WMAS website. For more information regarding programs call Mary Ellen Bittorf (928-367-2462). For more information regarding field trips call Rob Bettaso (928) 368-8481. All are welcome at the General Meetings and Field trips.

**March 6-** Dave Cagle from Arizona Game & Fish will focus on how the Arizona Game and Fish Department and other agencies manage wetlands with fire and other methods. Photos will include local wildlife including ducks, geese and other birds.

**April 3-** Dr. Kevin Gibson, Mining Engineer, Ph.D., will be doing a presentation called "Protect Arizona's Water." It will focus on Arizona's specific concerns and risks associated with the practice of "fracking," and how this can affect the future viability of our state.

**April 20-** Field trip to Alchesay National Fish Hatchery

**May 1-** Diane Tilton says "Have you seen the new population of Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep near Greer and wondered how they got there?" Diane Tilton from Arizona Game & Fish Department will talk about the recent translocations of Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep from the Morenci area to reestablish two populations and to supplement another population that suffered losses during the Wallow Fire.

**May 18-** Field trip to Pintail Lake

**June 1-** Field trip to White Mountain Nature Center & Big Springs

**June 5-** Lorna Cox will present a program called "Whiskers in the Woods." It is about the surprising and secretive gray fox. She says, "I've had an up close and personal relationship for years with a gray fox family up here."

**July 3-** Dwayne Bartimus, reptile specialist, will present a program on the animals he rehabilitates.

**July 13-** Eighth Annual White Mountain Audubon and Nature Center Film Festival and dinner. This event takes place at the Nature Center, 425 Woodland Rd., Lakeside. Tickets available at the Nature Center or from Board members. See WMAS website for up-to-date information.

**July 20-** Field trip to Silver Creek State Fish Hatchery.

**August 7-** Gwendena Lee-Gatewood, Apache Tribal Chairwoman, will talk about the positive impact of our Audubon organization from an Apache perspective. She will relate stories of WMAS scholarship recipients and the resulting influence on wildlife and nature.

**August 17-** Field trip to Williams Creek National Fish Hatchery

**September 4-** Dennis Tomko, President of Northern Arizona Audubon (Flagstaff and Sedona) will give a quick overview of NAAS including membership. He will talk about four bird sanctuaries they've developed and the bird species found there. One of the recently developed sanctuaries is Bubbling Ponds.

**September 21-** Field trip to Sheep's Crossing area.

**October 2-** Dave Cagle will give us a tour of the West African country of Burkina Faso to experience local wildlife and interesting citizens. Dave will have video and photos of wildlife, including lots of birds, lions, elephants, and antelope.

**October 19-** Field trip to Old Hatchery Trail.

**November 6-** TBA

**December 4 -** Holiday Party & Pot Luck. Sue Sitko will show photos of her bike trip along the Vistula River in Poland between Warsaw and Krakow. It'll be scenic, and since it took place in the summer, there's sure to be some birds.

## **A Birder's Riddle. By Rob Bettaso**

Note that March-April Newsletter's riddle is also a contest of sorts. If you have an answer to this riddle (the specific type of bird) email Rob at: [rhilbe739@gmail.com](mailto:rhilbe739@gmail.com) by March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019 and if you have the correct answer to the riddle your name will be put into a drawing at our March 6<sup>th</sup> monthly program/meeting and a single winner will be drawn for a free WMAS T-shirt. You must be present to win.

(The answer to the riddle in our Jan/Feb Newsletter was Horned Lark.)

It is now late winter,  
The nights still long.  
More time for hunting,  
And my courtship song.

With a rapier sharp beak,  
I'm the tiger of the sky.  
My wings as silent as death,  
I have yellow, cat eyes.

From my horn topped head,  
To my taloned, feathered feet.  
I'm nothing but danger,  
For any rodent I meet.

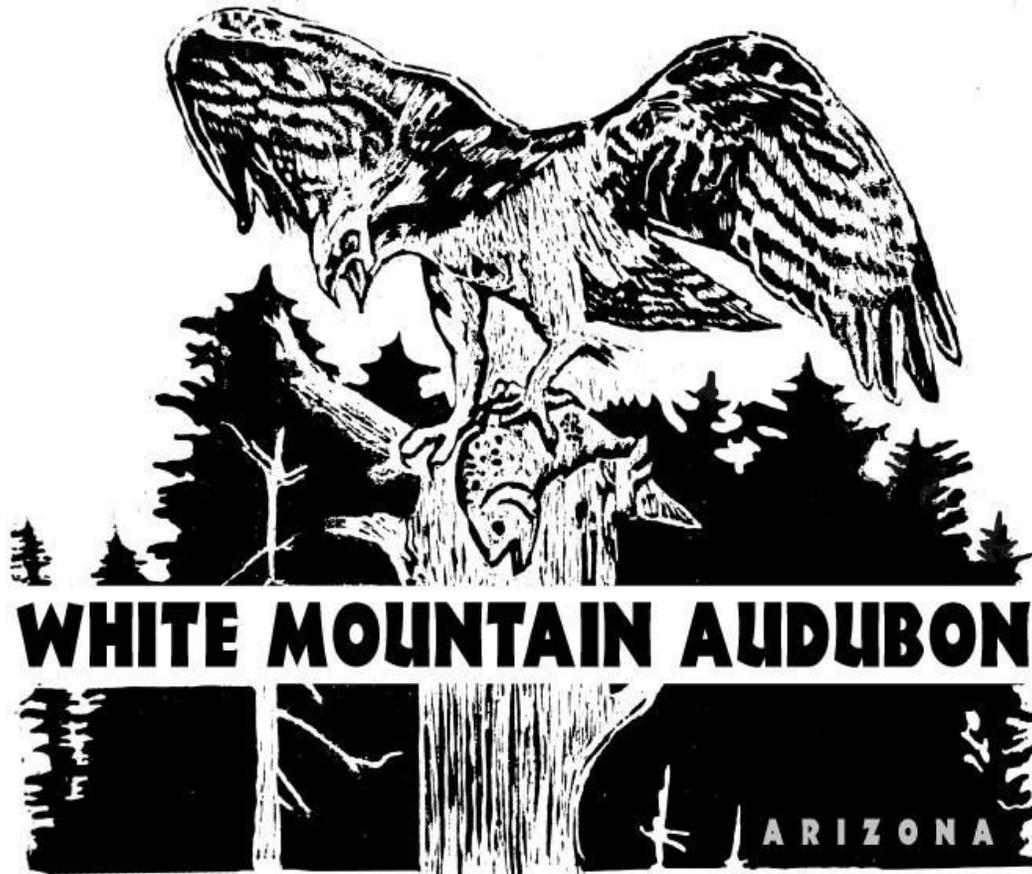
My range spans this continent,  
North to south, east to west.  
Likewise my habitats are diverse,  
From mountains to deserts, all harbor my nests.

Two to three white eggs,  
The female will brood.  
Meanwhile the male,  
Will hunt, to bring her food.

For meals we'll consume,  
Bugs, snakes, rats, and rabbits.  
Their fur, bones, and scales,  
We'll cough up in pellets.

We're a bird of great wisdom,  
Some say we portend doom.  
Perhaps best for you,  
If you see us not soon.

The new Audubon T-shirts are in and we will be selling them for \$15/shirt at our March meeting. The shirts are available in gold and blue and in sizes M, L, XL. A very hearty thank-you to Anne Groebner for retrofitting an old logo and re-designing it so that she could make 30 brand new shirts unlike any others available elsewhere.



**Photo of a Brown Creeper taken in the White Mountains by Jack Rasmussen**



**Membership/Donation Form**

White Mountain Audubon Society membership dues are: Individual \$15 or Family \$25 per year. Please renew your membership every January. Your tax-deductible membership supports our on-going programs and activities, as well as future new projects. Your membership and donations do make a difference!

MEMBERSHIP \_\_\_\_\_ DONATION \_\_\_\_\_

Individual \_\_\_\_\_ Family \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Send this form and your dues or donation to: White Mountain Audubon Society; P.O. Box 3043; Pinetop, AZ 85935 You may use this form for either your Membership renewal or a Donation to WMAS. Please designate above which you are doing. Thank you very much for your support of White Mountain Audubon Society! LIKE US ON FACEBOOK.

**White Mountain Audubon Society is dedicated to the enjoyment of birds and other wildlife by providing environmental leadership and awareness through fellowship, education, community involvement, and conservation programs in the White Mountains and surrounding areas.**

**White Mountain Audubon Society  
P. O. Box 3043  
Pinetop, AZ 85935**